Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace paragraph [1037] on page 9 with the following amended paragraph:

[1037] Continuing with FIG. 3A, during each time period $T_{MESSAGE}$ the quality message is generated once and multiple differential indicators are generated, wherein each generated differential indicator is referred to as "~~diff~~DIFF." Note that the quality message and the differential indicator are generated at different rates. As illustrated in FIG. 3A, the differential analyzer 206 also receives an input signal, T_{DIFF}, controlling the rate of differential indicator generation.

Please replace paragraph [1047] on page 13 with the following amended paragraph:

[1047] FIG. 5 illustrates a method 600 used in one embodiment for processing the feedback information at the base station. At step 602 the base station receives the quality message from the mobile station, wherein the quality message relates to the FL pilot signal strength. The quality message received is stored in a memory storage device at step 604. The base station provides the quality message received to a scheduler at step 606. For data communications, the scheduler is responsible for providing fair and proportional access to the base station from all access terminals having data to transmit and/or receive. The scheduling of access terminals may be performed in any of a variety of methods. The scheduler then implements the schedule at step 608. In addition to the quality message, the base station receives a differential indicator, DIFF, at step 610. The base station applies the differential indicator to the stored quality message at step 612 to track the quality of the FL channel. In this way the base station is ~~aprised~~ apprised of the condition and quality of the FL channel as seen at the receiver of the access terminal. The process provides the quality message to the scheduler to implement a schedule at step 614. The process determines if a quality message is received at step 616.

Please replace paragraph [1051] on page 15 with the following amended paragraph:

[1051] Various timing scenarios are illustrated in FIG. 7. In a first scenario, the DRC information is transmitted continuously, wherein one DRC message may be repeatedly transmitted to increase the accuracy of receipt. As illustrated, DRC(i) is a four slot message, wherein the message DRC(i) is transmitted in time slots A, B, C and D. The four slot message is transmitted during time duration T_{DRC}. Subsequent to time slot D the next message, DRC(i+1) will be transmitted. Prior to time slot A the previous message, DRC(i-1) was transmitted. In this scenario, the quality message is implicitly included in the DRC message and is transmitted continuously. This scenario wastes bandwidth and thus reduces the capacity of the reverse link. In a second scenario the DRC message is transmitted on a gated channel, the DRC channel, once during T_{DRC}. The differential indicator is transmitted on a continuous sub-channel having a period of T_{DIFF} ~~T_{diff}~~. The differential indicator either increments or decrements the index of the DRC message. In this way, the access network is able to accurately track the available data rates, etc., quickly, as the differential indicator is an uncoded bit or bit(s). Note that while the quality message and differential indicator have been described herein with respect to the FL, each is applicable to the RL as well.